

**REMARKS**

Prior to examination of the application on the merits, entry of the foregoing is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, citations of two documents in the Background Section of the specification are amended to include the publication numbers of the cited Japanese Patent Publications and to identify relevant portions thereof. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

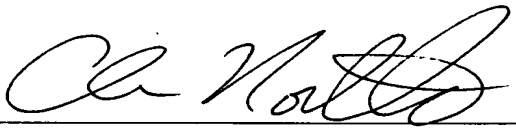
No prohibited new matter is believed to have been added by the present amendments. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation or divisional applications, or to reintroduce claims into this application, directed to any subject matter that may have been canceled by the present amendments.

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 10, 2006

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